

Senator Chambers, the Patrol should be enforcing the law. They feel they can't expend the effort and have an equal return on their investment without having a felony. They want to get these people, they want to get them out of business, they want to stop the activity. They don't feel a misdemeanor will get the job done. Let's give them the penalty, a felony. Let's give them a chance and the tools that they need to get the job done. I hope that we'll see dog fighting disappear from this state. With that, I'd ask for support in advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Motion on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Abboud would move to amend the bill. (Abboud amendment appears on page 317 of the Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, there are two portions to this bill. The first portion deals with changes in the statute dealing with the cock fights, the bear baiting, the dog fighting and the pitting of one animal against another. Then the second portion deals with the person observing the cock fights or the bear baiting or the pitting of one animal against another. So you have two portions to this bill. Now the portion dealing with spectators, where you observe these bear baitings or cock fightings, there is no penalty in the Nebraska statutes at this time. It is not illegal to witness a cock fight. Now, it is illegal to pit one animal against another, and that is under the cruelty to animals section of the Nebraska statutes 28-1001, and the penalty for that is a Class II misdemeanor. So what we are dealing with in this bill are two different areas, the actual pitting of one animal against another and then a brand new statute dealing with the spectators watching these events. What my amendment says is, first, that by pitting one animal against another that individual will be convicted of a Class I misdemeanor. Now a Class I misdemeanor involves jail time, it involves fines, and to my belief it increases the penalties to such a degree that it will stop these types of events from going on in the state. Now the second section, dealing with the actual witnessing of the animals being pitted against one another, I don't change the first offense. The first offense is still a Class I misdemeanor. But then the second offense, or subsequent offenses changes that to a Class I misdemeanor. So what the bill deals with...is dealing with the